Extended Range Multi-Purpose Unmanned Aircraft System (ERMP UAS) MQ-1C

What is it?
The U.S. Army's new division level UAS is the MQ-1C ERMP, possibly to be named the "Gray Eagle." The ERMP will be fielded as a company assigned to the Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB) of the division. As an organic divisional asset, it executes reconnaissance, surveillance, security, attack, and command and control missions to provide dedicated mission-configured UAS support to assigned division CABs, Fires Brigades (FiB), Battlefield Surveillance Brigades (BFSB), Brigade Combat Teams (BCT), and other Army and joint force units based upon the division commander's mission priorities. The ERMP gives commanders a much-improved, responsive, armed, tactically oriented Reconnaissance, Surveillance and Target Acquisition (RSTA) / intelligence data collection capability with an attack capability able to be teamed with manned systems. The ERMP addresses an ever increasing demand for greater range, endurance and payload flexibility with the capability for mission re-tasking in flight. The ERMP system will be capable of providing three simultaneous and continuous missions anywhere within the division's battlespace. The ERMP system will be fielded in company sets consisting of 12 Unmanned Aircraft (UA), five Ground Control Stations (GCS) and associated equipment. The ERMP UAS company is resourced with 128 Soldiers to include a company commander, first sergeant, UAS warrant officers, aircraft and mission payload operators, and enlisted maintenance personnel.

What has the Army done?
The Army has followed the Joint Capabilities Integration and Development System (JCIDS) culminating with a Joint Requirements Oversight Council (JROC) validated / approved Capabilities Production Document (CPD) supporting a February 2010 Milestone C (Production and Deployment) decision. Initial Operational Capability (IOC) of the First Unit Equipped (FUE) is planned for the second quarter of FY 12. To meet the Secretary of Defense's ISR surge requirement, a Quick Reaction Capability (QRC) was accelerated into service to fill tactical-RSTA / ISR gaps until the program of record system is fielded. QRC 1 deployed in July 2009 with a second QRC is planned for June 2010.

What continued efforts does the Army have planned for the future?
The current increment of the ERMP consists of 11 systems: one system for the training base, eight systems for the active Army and two systems for Army Special Operations Forces (ARSOF). QRC companies will form the nucleus of full-up systems starting in FY 13. Should analysis dictate, additional Increment I systems may be required or the Army may move to develop an Increment II to meet future capability gaps.

Why is this important to the Army?
The ERMP system provides an organic tactical RSTA / ISR data collection asset that allows the division commander to weigh his main efforts. It will provide greater situational awareness for tactical commanders, enhancing their ability to rapidly assess and respond to threats and changing situations in operations across the spectrum of conflict.

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